

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

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APPROVED BY PM/ISO: JR DEWENTER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO, MP, UK

SUBJ: MAURITIUS AND THE DIEGO GARCIA CONNECTION

REF: PORT LOUIS 180

1. WE WERE ON THE VERGE OF ASKING YOUR ASSESSMENTS OF MAURITIUS' POSSIBLE WILLINGNESS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE SOVIET UNION FACILITIES OR BASE AREAS IN EXCESS OF THOSE THEY NOW HAVE WHEN REFTEL CAME IN. PORT LOUIS HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE THREAT OF THIS, AS EXPRESSED RECENTLY BY PM RAMGOOLAM, MAY MERELY BE A BALANCING MANEUVER.

2. WE HAVE DISCUSSED IT BRIEFLY WITH BRITISH EMBASSY (TONY REEVE), AND ASKED FOR HMG'S ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF EITHER MAURITIUS VOLUNTEERING EXPANDED RIGHTS TO THE SOVIET UNION, OR THE RUSSIANS PRESSING MAURITIUS FOR SUCH RIGHTS. A FURTHER QUESTION WHICH MIGHT BE EX-CONFIDENTIAL

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PLORED WITH THE FCO IS THE ADVISABILITY OF TRYING TO HEAD

OFF SUCH A GOM-SOVIET DEVELOPMENT.

3. THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT WISH TO ASK OF FCO: A) WHAT IS THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE UK-MAURITIUS DEFENSE AGREEMENT; B) WHEN DOES IT EXPIRE OR COME UP FOR RENEWAL? C) WHAT SORT OF LEVERAGE DOES IT GIVE HMG OVER MAURITIUS IN TERMS OF PERSUADING GOM TO DENY FACILITIES OR RIGHTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES?

DOES HMG BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY PROVISIONS IN THE UK-MAURITIUS DEFENSE AGREEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY MAURITIUS AS ALLOWING THE REVERSION OF THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO (OR DIEGO GARCIA) TO MAURITIUS IN THE EVENT THE LATTER DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE USES TO WHICH IT IS BEING PUT?

4. IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME MUCH MORE OBVIOUS INDICATION THAT SIR SEEWOOSAGUR WAS SERIOUS IN MENTIONING OFFERING EXPANDED RIGHTS TO THE SOVIET UNION, WE WOULD PREFER TO LAY LOW, NOD WISELY, AND ASSUME THE GOM WILL "CONTINUE TO PLAY THE DIEGO GARCIA ISSUE IN A LOW KEY., KISSINGER

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